

December 11, 1959

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

ambitions of employment?

I am a junior biology student at Reed College in Portland, and, at the suggestion of Dr. Frank Morrell, I am writing to enquire whether there is any possibility of obtaining summer employment in your laboratory. I have heard, of course, a great deal about your work, and I am sure that a summer in your lab would be a most valuable experience for me. Fortunately, however limited they may be, I can claim a few qualifications: for two summers I worked under Dr. Morrell in his neurophysiology lab (Frank said he will send you a few words of recommendation), and, after a summer at music school, I spent last summer working under Dr. Edward Novitski at Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Colorado. At RMBL I met H.J. Muller who suggested that I discuss with you the advisability of going to medical school as preparation for doing medical or genetic research - in any event, I would like to discuss this matter with you at some time during the coming year.

Enclosed is a copy of a manuscript, submitted to Genetics, which describes the work we did last summer. We are now in the process of revising the article, and we would appreciate any comments you might have.

If you might have some opening for me for next summer and would like further recommendations, grade transcripts, etc, I will be happy to have them sent.

Yours truly,

Mark Ptashne

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(For the next three weeks I will be at